

Ara Poutama Milestone 1 Report due at: 1/5/2020
Lottery Environment and Heritage
LEH-2019-100229 \$30,000.00
Grant Term: 1/11/2018 - 26/11/2021

BRAID INCORPORATED

ARA POUTAMA MILESTONE ONE REPORT

We agreed to complete the following: a report on progress to date, including information on how the project is tracking against the budget, timeline and project plan submitted with this request.

Report Here:

Braided Rivers Partnership Project – interim report

Background

The key goal of the project is, broadly, to continue to engage new and recognise existing positive actions from stakeholders working on or around braided rivers, to protect, enhance, and restore habitats for the nationally critical black-billed gull and nationally endangered black fronted tern. A positive outcome for these birds as 'flagship birds' will result in wide-ranging collateral benefits to other endangered specialist endemic braided river species and restore overall ecological function and biodiversity of braided rivers, and their hydro-geomorphological function as globally rare landscapes.

Challenges/problems

1. A key aim was to curtail the ongoing conversion of critical braidplain habitats into agriculture. This destroys entire ecosystems, exacerbates water quality problems, and increases flood risk. Community engagement and education has resulted in widescale recognition across New Zealand-that we have a major problem with our waterways. However, in October 2019, Environment Canterbury lost the High Court and Court of Appeal, legal case brought against a farmer; the Dewhirst case. The loss was essentially because the term 'braidplain' is not recognised under the current RMA definition of 'riverbed'. (A screengrab of social media reach and response is attached).
2. Due to the funding awarded, we scaled down some aspects of our original proposal, however this has not had a marked impact on outputs to date as we sought and received some additional funding from ECan and other funding or support for some project outlined below
3. Covid-19 has severely hindered some operations:
 - a. Education requires being in classrooms and field trips to rivers. We feel this will be the most difficult to overcome in 2020 as this sector is focussed on maintaining core outputs, not 'nice-to-haves'
 - b. Nascent community and planned trapping group formation in south Canterbury has had to be postponed, but we're confident it will go ahead at a later date as stakeholders and possible third-party sponsor for trap purchases seem keen
 - c. The planned July 2020 seminar is uncertain, but again, it will go ahead at some point

Outline of work to date

Planned: Support and expand activities to engage a broad range of organisations... Recognise these activities by continuing to develop and implement the BRaid accreditation Awards

Achieved:

- Donated 12 traps and designed signs for the Orari Rivercare Group (attached photo)
- Trustpower continues to clear weeds and trap on critical nesting sites in the Harper River delta (photo attached)
- Designed signs for Hurunui, Orari, and Ashburton rivers, now in place (see samples attached)
- Recognition of activities in this period: Makarora School, Karikaas Cheese, Cresslands contracting, Southern Alps Air. The rationale for awards is on this webpage

Planned: Trapping workshops

Achieved:

- Completed 2 including an advanced North Canterbury Trapping Network workshop in Hanmer Springs (attached flyer) with the goal of improving wide sector integration of data and improved understanding of realistic goals and ecological outputs.

- Completed a 52-page community engagement project (co-funded) to integrate river restoration with community trapping around Hanmer Springs

Planned: Work with professional educators to refine existing educational resources

Achieved:

- Completed updates of 24-page teaching resource
- Created Covid-19 'Kids at Home' project with prizes sponsored by Trustpower

Planned: Work with Te Kohaka o Tuhaitara Trust to support the goal of having the Ashley Rakahuri pūahatanga granted the legal status of a person

Achieved:

- No progress to date as this is a support function dependent on Te Kohaka o Tuhaitara Trust. However, we are working closely with ECan to support the Ashley Rakahuri Rivercare Group as the Ashley Rakahuri River is now one of two rivers selected by ECan to be their flagship '10 rivers in 10 years' community engagement and river restoration programmes

Planned: Advocate for braided rivers and braided river birds at every opportunity

Achieved:

- Attended workshops to restructure the RMA advocating for recognition of braidplains as complex hydrologically linked ecosystems rather than as 'rivers'
- Similarly to NZ Biodiversity Strategy + submitted to Draft Draft National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity
- Submitted to ECan in support of their legal challenge in the Dewhirst case, to advocate for the protection of braided river ecosystems as 'public goods' and submission on 2020/2021 Annual plan 'Better Future' survey
- Funded by Rice Spier to display at the Environmental Compliance Conference
- Submitted to NZ Got. Action for Healthy Waterways
- On request, presented to ECan staff and Hurunui Waiiau Zone Committee on the impacts of climate change to braided rivers and potential management solutions
- Worked with Miranda Shorebird Trust to promote wrybill as 'Bird of the Year' 2019

Planned: Organise and run 2 braided river seminars

Achieved:

- One completed July 2019 with partial additional sponsorship from ECan and RCEEs. The list and links to each seminar paper and speaker biographies are here; the summary report and to RCEES is attached.

Planned: Monitor colony nesting birds on key sites throughout the season, and report outcomes

Achieved:

- Site monitoring and reports completed as follows: Lees Valley, Okuku River, Orari River (scroll down to 2019-2020 reports) and smaller catchment rivers. A copy of the Lees valley survey is attached

Planned: bird survey/field on the Wilberforce River

Achieved:

- High flow river conditions made it impossible to complete the survey as planned, so we changed it to a field day (attached flyer)

Planned: Maintain and continually update the BRaid website with the latest information and send at least 6 newsletters to active subscribers, annually

Achieved:

- The website was completely rebuilt from the ground up on a different platform: <https://braidedrivers.org> ; it's continuously updated with reports, research, and information. There are 119 webpages and 106 posts including copies of 11 newsletters (copies on these pages) since November 2018
- Built website for the Ashley Rakahuri Rivercare group (external funding) www.arrg.org.nz

Planned: Respond to requests for information and provide practical assistance for research and field conservation management activities

Achieved:

- The chief way we provide information is by directing enquires to specific people and the website where up-to-date reports and resources are kept and secondly:
- River surveys during the breeding season (see site monitoring reports above)
- Practical assistance is the creation of signs on request. Where possible and with permission we tag these with DOC, ECan and/or council logos to lend weight to their veracity (samples attached)
- Continuously raise awareness of issues through media and social media for different rivercare and bird research groups. Unfortunately, bad news garners far more attention (see a sample of Facebook posts attached).

Projected over the next 18 months

- Planned stakeholder and community meetings (postponed due to Covid-19) with key stakeholders to fund trapping on the Orari River with technical support from DOC and ECan + recently established and very successful

Opihi River trapping group

- o Develop project partnerships with Opuhu and local gravel extraction company
- o Run community trapping project
 - Support education through online support
 - Maintain momentum for planned river bird monitoring from August onwards (fingers crossed we will all be allowed on rivers by then)
 - Maintain crucial existing relationships with DOC, ECan, LINZ and local councils
 - Follow up fledgeling opportunities for new partnerships with corporate entities
 - Run 2020 seminar
 - Follow up every opportunity to develop and implement new partnerships
 - Ongoing public campaign problem of black-backed gull and hedgehog predation on braided river birds
 - Design up to 6 permanent signs for the Ashburton hapua and river mouth
 - Adapt existing engagement/implementation strategies to maximise outcomes, where necessary
 - Based on increasing demand for presentations and solutions, explore options to create a separate 'climate solutions' network and website under BRaid, focussed on NIWA research and reports and recommendations from the Productivity Commission to 'give rivers room to move'
 - Maintain a high level of community engagement on Facebook
 - Produce at least 9 more newsletters and keep the website updated with research and reports

Sonny Whitelaw
Manager

Attached supporting evidence

(NB: printed signs were paid for by third parties)

1. Dewhirst decision reaction
2. Orari River signs in place
3. Trustpower Harper river
4. Hurunui and Ashburton rivers signs
5. Trapping workshop Hanmer Springs
6. Seminar report 2019
7. Lees Valley survey
8. Wilberforce River field day
9. Facebook posts
10. 2019 audited financials BRaid

Please upload any supporting documentation or evidence that ara poutama milestone one conditions have been met, using the green "Plus" button.

REPORTING DOCUMENTATION
BRaid interim report April 2020.docx ara poutama milestone 1 documentation Added by Sandra Whitelaw at 2:34 PM on 28 April 2020
10 2019 Audited financials - Braid.pdf ara poutama milestone 1 documentation Added by Sandra Whitelaw at 2:32 PM on 28 April 2020
9 Facebook posts.pdf ara poutama milestone 1 documentation Added by Sandra Whitelaw at 2:31 PM on 28 April 2020
8 wilberforce river field day.pdf ara poutama milestone 1 documentation

REPORTING DOCUMENTATION
<p>Added by Sandra Whitelaw at 2:31 PM on 28 April 2020</p>
<p>7 Lees-Valley-Ashley-Okuku-Rivers-Bird-Observations-2019-Breeding-Season...</p> <p>ara poutama milestone 1 documentation Added by Sandra Whitelaw at 2:31 PM on 28 April 2020</p>
<p>6 Seminar Report 2019.pdf</p> <p>ara poutama milestone 1 documentation Added by Sandra Whitelaw at 2:29 PM on 28 April 2020</p>
<p>5 trapping workshop hanmer springs.pdf</p> <p>ara poutama milestone 1 documentation Added by Sandra Whitelaw at 2:29 PM on 28 April 2020</p>
<p>4 Hurunui and Ashburton rivers signs.pdf</p> <p>ara poutama milestone 1 documentation Added by Sandra Whitelaw at 2:28 PM on 28 April 2020</p>
<p>3 Truspower Harper delta.pdf</p> <p>ara poutama milestone 1 documentation Added by Sandra Whitelaw at 2:27 PM on 28 April 2020</p>
<p>2.Orari sign in place.pdf</p> <p>ara poutama milestone 1 documentation Added by Sandra Whitelaw at 2:27 PM on 28 April 2020</p>
<p>1. Dewhirst decision Ecan.png</p> <p>ara poutama milestone 1 documentation Added by Sandra Whitelaw at 2:27 PM on 28 April 2020</p>

CONFIRMATION

this report is true and correct for this grant: Yes